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ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
SUITE 1800
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873

EXAMINER

RAMAN, USHA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/891,379

Applicant(s)

AXELSSON ET AL.

Examiner

Usha Raman

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed September 20th, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that, "Yuen is not pertinent to the claimed invention since each of the independent claims requires the selection of a desired program from the EPG followed by the display during browsing of the EPG in a second display area of the selected program while operating in the EPG system". Applicant further states that, "selection of a channel causes departure from the EPG in Yuen et al.". The examiner respectfully disagrees. The selection of channel as in the system of Yuen is interpreted as selecting the browsing of channels (i.e. selecting channel up/down), which displays the selected channel (indicated by highlighted channel 48) in the second display area 42, while still operating in the EPG system (in first display area 46). See Yuen, page 5, lines 23-30. As a result, the examiner maintains rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-7, 10, 13, 22-28 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuen et al. (WO 97/34414)

As for Claim 1, Yuen teach an electronic program guide system associated with a broadcast receiver in a broadcast system (see fig. 2 and page 1 lines 7-9), said electronic program guide system comprising:

Receiving means (television receiver) for receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to the broadcast system (see Yuen: fig. 7, page 1, lines 7-9);

First display generation means (CPU 24, Video processor 30) for generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area (46) of a display unit associated with said broadcast receiver. See fig. 2, page 5, lines 9-12.

Selecting means (remote control 50) for selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide (see page. 6 lines 26-28)

Setting means (CPU 24 controls tuner 11 to receive a selected program) for controlling of the associated broadcast receiver to set to the selected program (see page. 5 lines 16-33)

Second display generation means (PIP chip 19) for generating display during browsing of the EPG (see page 5, lines 23-30) of the selected program (highlighted by cursor 48) in a second display area (42) of the display unit (see pg. 5 lines 16-33)

Storage means for storing parameters identifying said selected program (see pg. 4 lines 31-32), and wherein

Additional program selection (browsing selection by highlighting up/down keys) causes setting the broadcast receiver to the selected program (see page 5, lines 23-30) and display of the additionally selected programs in the second display area and

addition of parameters identifying the additionally selected programs to a list of selected programs (i.e. last channel stored every time a tuner is set to a new channel) stored in the storage means (see pg. 4 lines 33-34, lines 22-24)

As for Claim 2, Yuen teach first input means allowing selection of stored parameters identifying a previously selected program, wherein said selection causes tuning and display of the previously selected program in the second display area of the display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38).

As for Claim 3, Yuen et al. teach a second input means allowing selection of the program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for full screen display. The claim language "allowing selection of the program currently being displayed" is interpreted to be broad enough by the examiner that a passive state of a user of leaving a program to continue to be displayed in the second display area (which is interpreted in previous claims above to be full screen display) is inherently allowing the current program being displayed in the second display area of the display for full screen display.

As for Claim 4, Yuen et al. teach a third display generation means for generating display of a list of the programs stored in the storage means in a third display area of the display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45).

As for Claim 5, Yuen et al. teach said first input means allows for stepwise sequential selection of the stored parameters (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38)

As for Claim 6, Yuen et al. teach third input means for allowing selection of a program from said list, wherein said selection causes tuning and display of the selected program in the second display area of the display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38).

As for Claim 7, Yuen et al. teach fourth input means for allowing selection from said list of a program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit, wherein said selection causes full screen display of the selected program on the display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38).

As for Claim 10, Yuen et al. teach said electronic program guide system is incorporated in an integrated receiver decoder (TV receiver). See fig. 1 and pg. 4 line 25

As for Claim 13, Yuen et al. teach said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a television receiver. See fig. 1 and pg. 4 line 25

As for Claim 22, Yuen et al. teach a method for browsing programs selected for display in a second display area of an electronic program guide system associated with a broadcast receiver (see fig. 2 and page 1 lines 7-9) comprising steps of:

Receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to a broadcast system (see fig. 7 unit 20 TV)

Generating display during browsing (see page 5, lines 23-30) of said electronic program guide in a first display area (46) of a display unit associated with said

broadcast receiver (fig. 1 unit 24 Microprocessor and unit 30 Video Processor, pg. 5 lines 9-12

Selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide (see fig. 6 unit 50 Remote control, pg. 6 lines 26-28);

Controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program (see fig. 1 unit 24 Microprocessor and unit 11 Tuner, pg. 5 lines 26-29

Generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit (see pg. 5 lines 30-33). Full screen is interpreted to be the second display area of the display unit.

Storing parameters identifying said selected program (see fig. 1 unit 34 Last Channel Register, pg. 4 lines 31-32) in a list of selected programs (i.e. last channel stored every time a tuner is set to a new channel, see pg. 4 lines 33-34, lines 22-24).

Repeating the controlling, generating and storing steps for each subsequently made program selection (see pg. 4 lines 33-34, lines 22-24). It is interpreted that the parameter of the channel that is displayed in full screen (second display area) is stored.

As for Claim 23, Yuen et al. teach selecting stored parameters identifying a previously selected program', controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the program identified by the selected parameters', generating display of the program identified by the selected parameters in the second display area of said display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38).

As for Claim 24, Yuen et al. teach selecting the program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for full screen display tThe second display area is interpreted to be a full screen display. Therefore, when a user selects a program to be displayed in the second display area, the user is inherently selecting the program to be displayed in full screen).

As for Claim 25, Yuen et al. teach generating display of a list of the programs stored in the storage means in a third display area of the display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel is interpreted to be the third display area that list the programs stored as the Last channel viewed full screen).

As for Claim 26, Yuen et al. teach inputting stepwise sequential selection of the stored parameters (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38). The step of selecting the last channel stored is interpreted to be a stepwise sequential selection).

As for Claim 27, Yuen et al. teach selecting a program from said list; controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the program selected', generating display of the program selected in the second display area of said display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38).

As for Claim 28, Yuen et al. teach selecting from said list a program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit; generating full screen display of the selected program on the display unit (The second display area is interpreted to be a full screen display. Therefore, when a user selects a program to

be displayed in the second display area, the user is inherently selecting the program to be displayed in full screen).

As for Claim 33, all the limitations of Claim 33 fall within the limitations of Claim 1. The limitations of claims 33 are analyzed and rejected as discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Claim 33 further requires a computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to perform the limitations of the claim. The limitation of the computer program product is met by Fig. 1 unit 24 microprocessor of Yuen et al. Also see Yuen et al. pg. 4 lines 27-28 It is interpreted that Microprocessor 24 is a computer program product to carry out the limitations of the claim.

As for Claim 34, all the limitations of Claim 34 fall within the limitations of Claim 1. The limitations of claims 34 are analyzed and rejected as discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Claim 34 further requires a computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer comprising source code portions for performing the limitations of the claim when said product is run on a computer. The limitation of the computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer comprising source code portions is met by Fig. 1 unit 24, microprocessor of Yuen et al. Also see Yuen et al. pg. 4 lines 27-28. It is interpreted that Microprocessor 24 is a digital computer program product to carry out the limitations of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8-9, 11, 15-18, 20 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuen et al. (WO 97/34414) in view of Bates et al. (US Pre Grant Pub. 2002/0152459).

As for Claim 8, Yuen et al. do not expressly teach a timer means, wherein said timer means is activated upon program selection and causes tuning and display of the selected program in the second display area of the display unit for a predetermined time and renewed tuning and display of the previously selected program in the second display area of the display unit upon elapse of the predetermined time. However, in the same field of endeavor, Bates et al. teach an interactive television system that monitors how long a user has been watching a particular channel and returns user to a previous watched channel when the time elapsed watching the first channel is less than a threshold amount. See bates et al. (0005) "Recall of previous channel based on view time may be implemented, for example, by monitoring the viewing time for a first television channel, switching to a second television channel and determining if view time exceeded a threshold, then storing first television channel as the channel of interest. After the viewer switches though a plurality of additional television channels to some final channel, remaining

on none longer then the threshold period, the viewer activates the selective view function which returns him to the last channel of interest" and (0024) "Other examples of determining the initial program of interest to the user may include but are not limited to, finding the program that was last viewed during the time slot,". In light of the teaching of Bates et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teaching of Yuen et al. to have a timer means to monitor how long a user has been watching a program and tuning back to a previously selected channel when a predetermined amount of time elapses. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to provide a fast method to return back to a channel of interest after a brief channel surf. See Bates et al. (0004) 'A problem occurs when a viewer wishes to return to his or her show of interest. To do this the viewer has to either press the opposing up or down button the same number of times or enter the number for the channel of the show of interest . . . Therefore, a significant need exists in the art for a channel control that will allow the viewer to swap between the current surfing position and the show of interest so that the "territory" covered during a channel surf can be extended."

As for Claim 9, the modified Yuen et al. teaches fifth input means for allowing selection of the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time, wherein said selection causes full screen display of the selected program on the display unit (see fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33- 38 "to utilize the last channel recall feature, the viewer pushes

the GUIDE/TV button to exit the guide mode while the cursor is positioned on the last channel listing 45, which controls the microprocessor to retrieve the channel designated for the LCF from the last channel register 34 and to control the tuner to tune the LCF. Hence, the program being telecast on the LCF is displayed full screen upon returning to the television viewing mode.").

As for Claim 11, the modified Yuen et al. in view of Bates et al. teaches said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a set-top box. See Bates et al. (0015) "However, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art having benefit of the instant disclosure that such functionality may be implemented in any number of devices capable of providing program information to a user on one of a plurality of channels, including, for example, televisions, cable set top boxes, personal video recorders, computers, VCR's, audio tuners, etc."

As for Claim 15, Yuen et al. teach an electronic program guide system associated with a broadcast receiver in a broadcast system (see fig. 2 and page 1 lines 7-9)

Receiving means (television receiver) for receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to the broadcast system (see Yuen: fig. 7, page 1, lines 7-9);

First display generation means (CPU 24, Video processor 30) for generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area (46) of a display unit associated with said broadcast receiver. See fig. 2, page 5, lines 9-12.

Selecting means (remote control 50) for selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide (see page. 6 lines 26-28)

Setting means (CPU 24 controls tuner 11 to receive a selected program) for controlling of the associated broadcast receiver to set to the selected program (see page. 5 lines 16-33)

Second display generation means (PIP chip 19) for generating display during browsing of the EPG (see page 5, lines 23-30) of the selected program (highlighted by cursor 48) in a second display area (42) of the display unit (see pg. 5 lines 16-33)

Storage means for storing parameters identifying said selected program (see pg. 4 lines 31-32), and wherein

Yuen et al. do not expressly teach a timer means, and wherein an additional program selection causes tuning and display of the additionally selected program in the second display area and wherein said timer means is activated upon additional program selection and causes tuning and display of the additionally selected program in the second display area of the display unit for a predetermined time and renewed tuning and display of the previously selected program in the second display area of the display unit upon elapse of the predetermined time.

Bates et al. teach an interactive television system that monitors how long a user has been watching a particular channel and returns user to a pervious watched channel when the time elapsed watching the first channel is less than a threshold amount. See bates et al. (0005) and (0024)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teaching of Yuen et al. to have a timer means to monitor how long a user has been watching a program and tuning back to a previously selected channel when a predetermined amount of time elapses. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to provide a fast method to return back to a channel of interest after a brief channel surf. See Bates et al. (0004)

As for Claim 16, the modified Yuen et al. in view of Bates et al. teaches fifth input means for allowing selection of the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time, wherein said selection causes full screen display of the selected program on the display unit. See Yuen et al. fig. 2 unit 45 Last Channel, and pg. 8 lines 33-38 "to utilize the last channel recall feature, the viewer pushes the GUIDEXV button to exit the guide mode while the cursor is positioned on the last channel listing 45, which controls the microprocessor to retrieve the channel designated for the LCF from the last channel register 34 and to control the tuner to tune the LCF. Hence, the program being telecast on the LCF is displayed full screen upon returning to the television viewing mode."

As for Claim 17, the modified Yuen et al. in view of Bates et al. teaches said electronic program guide system is incorporated in an integrated receiver decoder. See Bates et al. (0015) "However, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art having benefit of the instant disclosure that such functionality may be implemented in any number of devices capable of providing program information to

a user on one of a plurality of channels, including, for example, televisions, cable set top boxes, personal video recorders, computers, VCR's, audio tuners, etc." The cable set top box is interpreted to be an integrated receiver decoder.

As for Claim 18, the modified Yuen et al. in view of Bates et al. teaches said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a set-top box. See Bates et al. (0015) "However, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art having benefit of the instant disclosure that such functionality may be implemented in any number of devices capable of providing program information to a user on one of a plurality of channels, including, for example, televisions, cable set top boxes, personal video recorders, computers, VCR's, audio tuners, etc."

As for Claim 20, the modified Yuen et al. in view of Bates et al. teaches said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a television receiver. See Bates et al. E0015) "However, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art having benefit of the instant disclosure that such functionality may be implemented in any number of devices capable of providing program information to a user on one of a plurality of channels, including, for example, televisions, cable set top boxes, personal video recorders, computers, VCR's, audio tuners, etc."

As for Claim 29, Yuen et al. do not expressly teach activating timer means upon program selection', controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program for a predetermined time; generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit for the predetermined time; controlling the tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to

tune to the previously selected program upon elapse of the predetermined time', generating display of the previously selected program in the second display area of said display unit upon elapse of the predetermined time. However, in the same field of endeavor, Bates et al. teach an interactive television system that monitors how long a user has been watching a particular channel and returns user to a previous watched channel when the time elapsed watching the first channel is less than a threshold amount. See bates et al. (0005) "Recall of previous channel based on view time may be implemented, for example, by monitoring the viewing time for a first television channel, switching to a second television channel and determining if view time exceeded a threshold, then storing first television channel as the channel of interest. After the viewer switches through a plurality of additional television channels to some final channel, remaining on none longer than the threshold period, the viewer activates the selective view function which returns him to the last channel of interest" and (0024) "Other examples of determining the initial program of interest to the user may include but are not limited to, finding the program that was last viewed during the time slot," In light of the teaching of Bates et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teaching of Yuen et al. to have a timer means to monitor how long a user has been watching a program and tuning back to a previously selected channel when a predetermined amount of time elapses. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to provide a fast method to return back to a channel of interest after a brief channel surf. See Bates et j ' al. (0004) 'A

problem occurs when a viewer wishes to return to his or her show of interest. To do this the viewer has to either press the opposing up or down button the same number of times or enter the number for the channel of the show of interest . . . Therefore, a significant need exists in the art for a channel control that will allow the viewer to swap between the current surfing position and the show of interest so that the "territory" covered during a channel surf can be extended."

As for Claim 30, Yuen et al. teach selecting the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time; and generating full screen display of the selected program on the display unit. The second display area is interpreted to be a full screen display. Therefore, when a user selects a program to be displayed in the second display area, the user is inherently selecting the program to be displayed in full screen

As for Claim 31, all the limitations of Claim 31 fall within the limitations of Claims 1 and 15. The limitations' of claims 31 are analyzed and rejected as discussed above with reference to Claims 1 and 15.

As for Claim 32, all the limitations of Claim 32 fall within the limitations of Claim 16. The limitations of claims 32 are analyzed and rejected as discussed above with reference to Claim 16.

6. Claims 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuen et al. (WO 97/34414) in view of Darbee et al. (US Pat. 6,130,726).

As for Claims 12 and 14, Yuen et al. do not expressly teach said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a mobile handset and/or mobile display appliance. However, in the same field of endeavor, Darbee et al. teach a hand held remote control unit that is configured to display electronic program guide. See Darbee et al. fig. 1 unit 14 display and col. 5 lines 3-5 "FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a remote control in accordance with one form of the present invention and having a visual display for displaying a program guide, an advertisement or other information." The remote control unit is interpreted to be a mobile handset and/or mobile display appliance. In light of the teaching of Darbee et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have modified the teaching of Yuen et al. to have the electronic program guide be displayed on a remote control unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to provide the electronic program guide to a user without interrupting the programming that is being displayed on the television. See Darbee et al. col. 2 lines 46-49. "The present invention is directed to a remote control unit having a graphic display for depicting program scheduling and/or advertising information without causing an interruption in content that is being depicted on an associated television monitor."

7. Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuen et al. (WO 97/34414) in view of Bates et al. (US Pre Grant Pub. 2002/0152459) further in view of Darbee et al. (US Pat. 6,130,726)

As for Claims 19 and 21, neither Yuen et al. nor Bates et al. expressly teach said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a mobile handset and/or mobile display appliance. However, in the same field of endeavor, Darbee et al. teach a hand held remote control unit that is configured to display electronic program guide. See Darbee et al. fig. 1 unit 14 display and col. 5 lines 3-5 "FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a remote control in accordance with one form of the present invention and having a visual display for displaying a program guide, an advertisement or other information." The remote control unit is interpreted to be a mobile handset and/or mobile display appliance. In light of the teaching of Darbee et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have modified Yuen et al. in view of Bates et al. to have the electronic program guide be displayed on a remote control unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to provide the electronic program guide to a user without interrupting the programming that is being displayed on the television. See Darbee et al. col. 2 lines 46-49 "the present invention is directed to a remote control unit having a graphic display for depicting program scheduling and/or advertising information without causing an interruption in content that is being depicted on an associated television monitor."

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

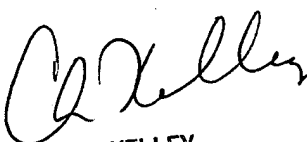
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usha Raman whose telephone number is (571) 272-7380. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

UR


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600